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RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY 0073
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0043
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN PRIORITY 0039
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2228
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 8430
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2377
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0717
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 6319
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FOR EUR/PGI, IO/RHS, AND DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ITALY HAS NO POSITION YET ON BOSNIA UNHRC CANDIDACY

REF: STATE 21984

Poloff delivered reftel demarche February 26 to MFA Office Director for Human Rights Laura Carpini and February 27 to Acting Office Director for UN Affairs Leonardo Bencini, urging Italian and EU support for Bosnia's UN Human Rights Council candidacy. The EU did not have a common approach to HRC voting, Bencini said, and to date there had been no discussion of EU joint support for HRC candidates. According to Bencini, Italy had not yet had time to formulate a position on Bosnia. The MFA was fully absorbed in assessing Italy's own HRC candidacy, especially given that Denmark and the Netherlands were also running for the two seats available in the WEOG group. Bencini noted that Bosnia had agreed to support Italy's candidacy. Poloff urged Italy to support Bosnia, highlighting the significant progress Bosnia had made on its human rights record and the need for countries with strong human rights records to sit on the HRC. Wondering if it was too late for the U.S. to run, Bencini asked when we would announce our final decision.

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